



U.S. CONSUMER PRODUCT SAFETY COMMISSION
Washington, DC 20207

MINUTES OF COMMISSION MEETING
July 20, 2001
4330 East West Highway
Bethesda, Maryland

Chairman Ann Brown convened the July 19, 2001, meeting of the U. S. Consumer Product Safety Commission in open session. Commissioner Mary Sheila Gall and Commissioner Thomas H. Moore were present.

AGENDA ITEM: Election of Vice Chairman

Upon the nomination by Commissioner Gall, with Chairman Brown seconding the nomination, Commissioner Thomas H. Moore was elected to serve as Vice Chairman of the U.S. Consumer Product Safety Commission for the term beginning June 1, 2001, and ending May 31, 2002.

AGENDA ITEM: FY 2003 Budget Request

The Commission considered the staff recommendation for the CPSC's Fiscal Year (FY) 2003 budget request. The Commission was briefed on this matter by the staff. The Commission also received supplemental information from the staff responding to questions raised by Chairman Brown, Commissioner Gall and Commissioner Moore.

On motion of Chairman Brown, the Commission voted unanimously (3-0) to approve a FY 2003 budget request of \$64.4 million and 480 full-time equivalent positions (FTEs), as presented by the staff in the FY 2003 budget recommendation document dated July 10, 2001, from the Acting Executive Director.

Commissioner Gall and Commissioner Moore filed statements concerning the FY 2003 budget proposal.

There being no further business on the agenda, Chairman Brown adjourned the meeting.

For the Commission:

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Todd A. Stevenson".

Todd A. Stevenson
Acting Secretary to the Commission

Attachment



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Mary Sheila Gall
Commissioner

Tel: (301) 504-0530
Fax: (301) 504-0057
Email: mgall@spsc.gov

**STATEMENT OF THE HONORABLE MARY SHEILA GALL
ON FY 2003 BUDGET REQUEST
July 19, 2001**

I voted with my colleagues to accept the staff's recommended budget for FY 2003 in the amount of \$64.4 million. This reflects an increase of \$10.2 million over our pending FY 2002 budget request of \$54.2 million.

This request contains a substantial increase because we can no longer continue to defer critical investments needed in our infrastructure and program areas.

Over the years, budget constraints have prevented us from making investments important to meeting our current information technology needs. Therefore, a vital infusion of funding is needed to sustain our hazard reduction programs. For example, we need sufficient funding for consumer use and exposure studies to interpret the incident data we collect. In addition, new government-wide information technology mandates require new expenditures of funds to implement enhanced security, electronic commerce and provide full access to individuals with disabilities.

Our laboratory conducts product testing and develops test methods to be incorporated into safety standards. We need to invest funds in our laboratory operations and consider this funding to be vital to the agency's operations. With the decrease in our contract support funding, the laboratory has become even more critical to our operations. The current structure, built in the 1950s as a Nike missile-tracking site, is outdated and inefficient. GSA agrees. We have funded the development of a master plan to upgrade the site that should be completed in late 2001. This budget contains an estimate of the initial investment we will need to begin to implement the master plan. Depending on funding availability, it may take as long as 5 years to complete.

The Commission has adapted to budget constraints over the years by increasing the efficiency of our operations. We operate on an extremely lean budget. Over 80% of our budget supports salary and overhead. Nearly a third of the proposed funding increase is needed to sustain our salary and non-compensation costs such as rent, travel and service contracts. The remainder of our funding maintains our base program activities for our Hazard Identification and Analysis, Compliance, Consumer Information and Agency Management functions. We can no longer continue to stretch our resources without critical investments. By delaying these investments, we have had to meet increasing demands by taking funding from our core safety programs.

Because the items contained in this budget request are genuinely necessary for the Commission to continue its' life-saving mission, I support it.



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STATEMENT OF THE HONORABLE THOMAS H. MOORE
ON THE FY2003 BUDGET PROPOSAL
July 19, 2001

I want to thank our staff for putting together such a sound budget proposal. Since it appears we may not be given enough money to fully fund our staffing needs in fiscal year 2002, let alone our project objectives, we start at a disadvantage with this budget.

This budget request also reflects several new statutory or administrative requirements placed on the agency. If we don't receive additional funding for these requirements through the appropriations process, we will still have to fund these items; they are not discretionary. This means less money to fund our critical mission objectives. Our mission never stops. New products are constantly being introduced into the marketplace. New products mean potential new hazards. And hazards can result in deaths and injuries. The fewer resources we have to meet those hazards, the greater the cost to society. Cuts in our budget translate directly into more costs being borne by the public. Costs, which in many cases, can never be recovered. While our staff often has to do it, no one should ever have to put a price on a person's life.

This budget will put us on a sound footing. It funds our staffing needs, gets us well under way to modernizing our antiquated laboratory site, would finally allow us to bring our hazard databases into the 21st century and gives us research and exposure study capabilities that we sorely need. For these reasons I have voted to approve the staff proposed budget for FY2003.